

STATE PLANNING COUNCIL

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rhode Island State Freight and Goods Movement Plan

Supplement to Agenda Item #5

July 28, 2016

The Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program will present a summary of the draft Rhode Island State Freight and Goods Movement Plan. The freight plan analyses future trends and the existing conditions of the state's freight system, identifies needs and gaps, provides recommendations to improve the freight system, and presents an implementation plan. It addresses all major freight modes: truck/highway, air, rail, and water.

The plan's recommendations encompass both infrastructure improvements and policy changes all with the goals of increasing freight efficiency, improving economic growth and competitiveness, and strengthening the connectivity of the state's freight system. The infrastructure recommendations focus on improving the condition and efficiency of Rhode Island's Interstates and highways, which carry the majority of freight in the state. They also seek to increase the capacity of and improve access to key freight facilities, such as the Port of Providence, Port of Davisville, and TF Green Airport through upgrades to rail lines, first/last mile connections, piers, and airport ramps. The plan also makes freight policy recommendations in the areas of state leadership, funding, workforce development, environment, land use, safety and enforcement, regional coordination, and resilience.

Statewide Planning developed the plan in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation with consulting assistance from HDR Engineering. Through a Freight Working Group, focus groups, surveys, and other outreach, it engaged a broad group of stakeholders during the planning process including state and quasi-public agencies such as the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation and the Rhode Island Airport Corporation, freight operators including the Providence & Worcester Railroad and ProvPort, industry associations such as the Rhode Island Trucking Association, and many manufacturers and businesses that move products to and from the state.

The US Department of Transportation has paid increasing attention to freight, and The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) made the receipt of funding through the National Highway Freight Program, a new formula funding program specifically for freight-related activities, contingent upon the development of a state freight plan.

ACTION REQUESTED: For Information.